

Newport Historical Society Minutes

March 8, 2010

Sugar River Bank Community Room

This meeting was called to order by Cathryn Baird at 7:04 pm.

Attendees

Arnie Hebert Stan Sweeney Mary Lou McGuire Cathryn Baird Christina O'Brien
Brenda Curtis Arnie Hebert Andy Andrews Roy MacDonald Patrick Hayward
Ray Reid Craig Cowing

1. Executive Committee Reports

Secretary Report

The affirmative vote to accept the Secretary's report was moved by Christina O'Brien and seconded by Arnie Hebert.

Treasurer Report

The affirmative vote to accept the Treasurer's report was moved by Stan Sweeney and seconded by Christina O'Brien.

2. Old Business

A. Update on 250th celebration

Cathryn Baird reported that the Steering Committee will meet at the end of February, with the goal of establishing subcommittees. The Steering Committee received a call from the Town Managers office expressing support and interest in this program. The key to a successful celebration is community involvement.

B. Historical Society participation in Winter Carnival

The Society set up at the Sugar River Bank on Saturday, and had a successful day. Stan Sweeney reported positive comments from the community regarding the Historical Society presence. Thank you to Stan for leading this effort.

3. New Business

A. Marketing/Advertising for the Museum

Christina O'Brien informed the membership of an opportunity to advertise the Museum in Image magazine. The summer issue (June 14 –September 14) will have a full page ad featuring New Hampshire museums. The fee is \$300 for a three line description of our venue. The following motion was made by Mary Lou McGuire, seconded by Christina O'Brien: To place an ad in the summer issue of Image magazine for three lines at a cost of \$300.00 to be paid from the Operating Fund. Of the members eligible to vote: 7 yes, 1 no.

B. Program on Sturm Ruger

Christina O'Brien reported that we were contacted by Marie Duggan, teacher at Keene State College, regarding a paper written by student Samantha Rosendahl on Sturm Ruger. This is a possible Historical Society program. Samantha will be contacted for more information and she will be invited to read her paper at the April meeting.

C. Society Meetings at the Museum

President Cathryn Baird brought up the possibility of holding meetings during the warmer months at the Museum, beginning in May. Arnie Hebert raised questions of fire safety. Cathryn will contact Chief Conroy. Discussion was tabled until the April meeting.

D. Recent Donations

- President Cathryn Baird reported that as a result of our delivery of items related to Charlestown, Joyce Higgins from the Charlestown Historical Society reciprocated with two photographs of Newport: Sugar River Mills and Arlington Sample. Ms. Higgins will forward any other items about Newport not needed in their collection.
- President Baird expressed thanks to Barbara Yeomans for the donation of her own christening gown. The gown appears to be hand made. Ms. Yeomans plans to send information about the gown to the Museum.
- President Baird informed members of a donation of historic newspapers from the surrounding area collected by George Birse of Newbury. Also included is a folder with information about canals that Mr. Birse researched.

E. President Baird shared some placemats from Dusty's Restaurant in Claremont that featured an historic picture of downtown Newport.

F. Workshop Information: Collections: Getting Started

President Baird shared information on a workshop to be sponsored by the Goshen Historical Society on April 24 entitled Collections: Getting Started. Chris Pratt of the New Hampshire Archives Group will present information regarding the care of paper collections. Everyone is invited to attend this workshop to be held at the Goshen Community Church, April 24, 10:00 – 3:00. Cost: \$5.00. Bring your own lunch. Contact David Stephan for more information or to enroll: 863-1718; learhill@wildblue.net

G. Receipt for Champollion Artifacts

President Baird shared a letter requesting her signature which agrees that the Newport Historical Society Museum will display the cited Champollion paintings, cross stitch by Mary Corbin, and artist's kit with a label that states they are a gift from the Champollion/Trafford Family. This step completes the involvement of the Trafford attorneys in the bequest, and all further communications regarding the Champollion collection need to be conducted directly with Abigail Trafford.

H. American Pickers

On a lighter note, President Baird recommended the show American Pickers on the History Channel, an informative and fun trip through America's backyards.

4. Committee Reports

Fundraising Committee:

It was suggested that we get more copies of Wheeler's history printed for the upcoming season. Arnie Hebert will get a quote and present it at the April meeting.

Pier Bridge Committee

A letter received by Jackie Cote from Thomas Jameson, P.E. of the NH DOT states that as of March 5 the project is still in a holding pattern, waiting on the FHWA (Federal Highway Administration.) FHWA needs to approve the estimate and issue a concurrence of award to NHDOT. Newport cannot award the contract to Wright's construction until Jameson hears from the FHWA.

Website Committee

Recent additions to the website are: the February newsletter, a Research & Genealogy page providing online access to birth records (1850-1858) and Pine Street West cemetery records. Since providing an email contact in November we have been contacted six times with genealogy queries and requests for information. We do not yet have the capability of tracking the number of visits, but our webmaster estimates about 250 hits a month.

An excellent suggestion was made to link from Cindi's List, which will be pursued by the Website committee.

Membership Committee:

A letter of thanks was sent to people who made a donation to the Society above the yearly membership dues. Included was a statement to serve as a tax receipt.

Cemetery Committee

Plans to present to the Board of Selectmen regarding the documentation work that has been accomplished at Pine Street West and plans for developing a preservation plan are not yet made.

Newsletter Committee

Discussion of the May newsletter with the proposed focus of Newporters in the military, ended with a request for articles from any member who would like to contribute.

Museum Committee:

The accessioning of items continues.

Arnie reported a \$200 donation from a person who called for information regarding Isaiah Putnam.

Arnie reiterated his concern about providing proper storage for Museum artifacts. He is especially concerned about contamination from the restaurant below the Museum and the risk of fire. President Baird tabled the discussion of reactivating the Building Committee until the April meeting.

5. Announcements/Queries/Requests

The Grantham Historical Society has invited Board members from surrounding towns to a meeting on March 16th, 6:30 PM to discuss topics of interest and share ideas.

The date of the April meeting has been moved forward one week to [April 19](#).

6. Adjournment

This meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Lou McGuire
Secretary